

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2145–S2223

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2415–2425, and S. Res. 402. **Pages S2201–02**

Measures Passed:

National Asbestos Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 402, designating the first day of April 2006, as “National Asbestos Awareness Day.”

Pages S2222–23

Congressional Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2146–84**

Adopted:

Kyl/Cornyn Amendment No. 3068, to designate \$2 billion in immigration- and homeland security-related funding for interior enforcement purposes, including, but not limited to: federal detention bed spaces and personnel; implementation of an expanded and user-friendly Electronic Employment Verification System; and, additional worksite enforcement personnel, including additional immigration enforcement agents, forensics auditors, fraud agents, intelligence research assistants, employer outreach assistants, and others. **Pages S2146–48**

By 60 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 44), Santorum Amendment No. 3050, to increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Pages S2153, S2154–58, S2173–74

By 90 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 46), McConnell Amendment No. 3061, to provide funding for maritime security, including the Container Security Initiative, improved data for targeted cargo searches, and full background checks and security threat assessments of personnel at our nation’s seaports.

Pages S2146, S2175–76

Chambliss (for Dayton) Amendment No. 3018, to restore funding for the Byrne/JAG grant program to the FY 2003 level of \$900 million, offset with an

across the board cut to administrative expenses, travel and consulting services. **Pages S2146, S2177**

By 76 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 48), Grassley Amendment No. 3073, to establish a reserve fund to allow for deficit-neutral legislation that would provide for an extension of the Medicare part D enrollment period. **Pages S2152–53, S2153–54, S2177–78**

By 54 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 50), Wyden (for Snowe/Wyden) Amendment No. 3004, to ensure that any savings associated with legislation that authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use the collective purchasing power of 40,000,000 Medicare beneficiaries to negotiate the best possible prices for prescription drugs provided through part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act in fall-back plans, by private drug plans (if asked) and in other circumstances, but not permitting a uniform formulary or price-setting, is reserved for deficit reduction or to improve the Medicare drug benefit.

Pages S2165–68, S2178–79

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 43), Murray Amendment No. 3063, to restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program to the fiscal 2004 level by closing tax loopholes previously slated for elimination in Senate-passed legislation. **Pages S2146, S2172–73**

By 43 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 45), Stabenow Amendment No. 3056, to provide \$5 billion for our emergency responders so that they can field effective and reliable interoperable communications equipment to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and the public safety needs of America’s communities, and fully offset this by closing tax loopholes and collecting more from the tax gap.

Pages S2146, S2174–75

By 43 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 47), Menendez Amendment No. 3054, to provide an additional \$965 million to make our ports more secure by increasing port security grants, increasing inspections, improving existing programs, and increasing research and development, and to fully offset this additional funding by closing tax loopholes.

Pages S2146, S2176–77

By 49 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 49), Nelson Amendment No. 3009, to establish a deficit-neutral

reserve fund to protect Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in the prescription drug benefit during 2006.

Pages S2148–52, S2178

By 44 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 51), Byrd Amendment No. 3086, to preserve a national inter-city passenger rail system by providing adequate funding of \$1.45 billion for Amtrak in Fiscal Year 2007 and to fully offset this additional funding by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Pages S2168–70, S2179–80

By 39 yeas to 59 nays (Vote No. 52), Santorum/Specter Amendment No. 3015, to provide an additional \$550,000,000 for Amtrak for fiscal year 2007.

Pages S2170–72, S2180–84

Withdrawn:

Byrd Amendment No. 3062, to provide \$184 million over five years for the Mine Safety and Health Administration to hire additional mine safety inspectors, paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Pages S2146, S2171

Pending:

Specter Amendment No. 3048, to increase the advance appropriations allowance in order to fund health, education and training, and low-income programs.

Page S2146

Reid (for Clinton/Reid) Amendment No. 3115, to increase funding in fiscal year 2007 by \$347 million to restore funding or provide increased funding over fiscal year 2006 for programs and policies that support the delivery of contraceptive services and medically accurate information in order to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, including Title X of the Public Health Service Act, and to restore funding or provide increased funding over fiscal year 2006 for programs that help women have healthy pregnancies and healthy children, including the Child Care Development Block Grant, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Healthy Start, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Page S2180

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006, all time under the Act expire.

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the budget resolution at 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006; provided further, that the time from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., be equally divided between the Chairman and the Ranking Member; following which, Senate proceed to votes in relation to certain amendments proposed thereto; Senate then will continue debate on the budget resolution until 1:30 p.m., with the time equally divided; and that at 1:30 p.m., Senate begin a series of additional votes on certain amendments to be proposed thereto.

Page S2184

Debt-Limit Extension: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 47, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, and the Senate then began consideration of the joint resolution, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S2184–95

Pending:

Baucus/Lincoln Amendment No. 3131, to require a study of debt held by foreigners.

Pages S2193–95

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution on Thursday, March 16, 2006, with a vote on or in relation to Baucus/Lincoln Amendment No. 3131 (listed above), followed by a vote on final passage of the joint resolution.

Page S2184

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Warren W. Tichenor, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Mark C. Minton, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Mongolia.

Andrew von Eschenbach, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

John A. Rizzo, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Page S2223

Nominations Discharged: The following nominations were discharged from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and then placed on the Executive Calendar:

Marc L. Kesselman, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, which was sent to the Senate on November 16, 2005, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Gale A. Buchanan, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, which was sent to the Senate on January 18, 2006, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Boyd Kevin Rutherford, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which was sent to the Senate on January 27, 2006, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Linda Avery Strachan, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which was sent to the Senate on February 17, 2006, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Pages S2222, S2223

Messages From the House:

Page S2200

Measures Referred:

Pages S2200–01

Executive Communications:	Page S2201
Executive Reports of Committees:	Page S2201
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S2202–04
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S2204–07
Additional Statements:	Page S2200
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S2207–21
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S2222
Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—52)	Pages S2173–80

Recess: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and recessed at 8:05 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2223.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of the Navy, after receiving testimony from David C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy; Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

APPROPRIATIONS: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Secretary of the Senate, and Architect of the Capitol, including an update on the progress of the Capitol Visitor Center, after receiving testimony from Emily Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate; Alan Hantman, Architect, Steven Ayers, Acting Chief Operating Officer, and Robert C. Hixon, Jr., Capitol Visitor Center Project Executive, all of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; and Bernard Ungar, Director, Physical Infrastructure, and Terrell Dorn, both of Government Accountability Office.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, focusing on ground forces readiness, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James J. Lovelace, Jr., USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, United States Army; Lieutenant General Jan C. Huly, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations, United States Marine Corps; Lieutenant General John R. Vines, USA, Commanding General,

XVIII Airborne Corps; and Lieutenant General John F. Sattler, Commander, United States Marine Corps Forces Central Command, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on the Joint Strike Fighter F136 Alternate Engine Program, after receiving testimony from Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Admiral Robert F. Willard, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; General John D.W. Corley, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; General Robert Magnus, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Rear Admiral Steven L. Enewold, USN, Program Executive Officer, Joint Strike Fighter Program, United States Navy.

INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed legislation to provide a national innovation initiative, and related proposals for assuring America's leadership and competitiveness in the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Senators Baucus and Lieberman; Deborah L. Wince-Smith, Council on Competitiveness, Washington, D.C.; Craig R. Barrett, Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, California; John E. Kelly III, IBM Corporation, Somers, New York; and Norman Augustine, Bethesda, Maryland.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 476, to authorize the Boy Scouts of America to exchange certain land in the State of Utah acquired under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1829, to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands;

S. 1830, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, with amendments;

H.R. 562, to authorize the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932–1933;

H.R. 3443, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; and

The nominations of Raymond L. Orbach, to be Under Secretary for Science, Alexander A. Karsner, to be Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Dennis R. Spurgeon, to be Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and David Longly Bernhardt, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.